

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner stated that the amendment to the claims filed on July 8, 2003, does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 41 because Applicants have not paid for all of the additional claims. According to the Examiner, Applicants have added 9 new claims in excess of 20 including 2 of which are 4-way multiple dependent which tabulates a fee requirement to the equivalent of 15 additional claims in excess of 20. The Examiner observed that the Applicants only paid for 6 additional claims. The Examiner stated that Applicants need to cancel sufficient claims to confirm with the number of claims paid for.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The amendment that effected the amendment to the claims to which the Examiner refers was filed (mailed on July 3, 2003) in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). A check in the amount of \$375.00 was enclosed with the RCE. The RCE included an RCE Transmittal Sheet (Form PTO/SB/30). Applicants checked three boxes under the heading "Fees" on the RCE Transmittal Sheet:

(1) Box 3.a. which provides, "The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. ____." The Applicants' Attorney's Deposit Account No. 501562 was entered in the blank provided by the RCE Transmittal Sheet.

(2) Box 3.a.i. which provides, "RCE fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e)."

(3) Box 3.a.iii. which provides "Other".

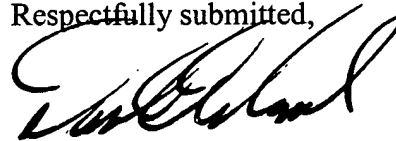
A copy of the RCE Transmittal Sheet mailed on July 3, 2003, is enclosed herewith as Attachment 1 hereto.

During a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 15, 2003, Applicants' Attorney and the Examiner agreed that the authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 501562 for other fees was overlooked during processing of the RCE mailed July 3, 2003. Appropriate authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 501562 was located by the Applicants' Attorney and the Examiner during the telephone interview with the Examiner of October 15, 2003.

The Patent Office was authorized to apply any fees not covered by the check accompanying the RCE to Deposit Account No. 501562. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the requirement that Applicants cancel any claims because of failure to pay appropriate fees for additional claims in excess of 20.

Since Applicants have fully and completely responded to the Official Action, this Application is now in order for early action and such early action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner would deem a telephone conference to be of value in expediting this Application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (972) 758-1955 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald D. Mondul

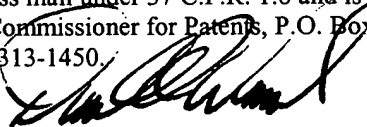
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I certify that this document is being deposited on October 16, 2003 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Donald D. Mondul, Attorney for Applicants